

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

*Please replace the following paragraph beginning at page 18, line 19 and ending at page 19, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:*

-- As can be seen from Figure 4, whenever a reset signal for the electronic shuttering operation is supplied to an arbitrary  $i^{\text{th}}$  (where  $1 \leq i \leq m$ ) row included in the effective pixel area, a readout operation is performed on another row. For example, while ~~resetting for the electronic shuttering operation~~ a readout operation is being performed on the  $m^{\text{th}}$  row, ~~a readout operation~~ resetting for the electronic shuttering operation is being performed on the  $(m+3)^{\text{rd}}$  row. Were it not for the dummy pixel rows, i.e., the  $(m+1)^{\text{st}}$  through  $(m+3)^{\text{rd}}$  rows in this case, the readout operation could not be performed on any row while resetting for the electronic shuttering operation is being performed on the  $(m-2)^{\text{nd}}$  to the  $m^{\text{th}}$  rows. --